

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method and apparatus for tunneling operating codes to and from a call server in a packet network. A signaling package for the Megaco/H.248 protocol is provided which encapsulates or "tunnels". control and signaling codes for an endpoint device so that the codes can be communicated between a call server and the device. Only the call server and the endpoint device need have the intelligence to interpret the operating codes. Where the device is a programmable phone, the call server can be provisioned to understand and control specialized functions of the phone without adding new, telephone specific signaling to the standard Megaco/H.248 protocol for each type of phone to be supported. The media gateway that serves the specific telephone in question simply passes on any operating codes received.